



Maryland Agriculture Data

Weekly Crop and Weather Report



MD-CW0601

May 7, 2001

Dry Weather Conditions Continue

The week ending April 29th was extremely dry, allowing Maryland farmers to spend 6.8 **suitable days in the fields**. The continued arid conditions experienced recently are depleting soil moisture. Consequently, many crops, small grains and grasses in particular, are growing at a slow pace. Substantial rain is needed to ensure good seed germination, maintain crop conditions, and activate chemicals applied to fields. Nevertheless, farmers took advantage of the weather to accelerate spring planting. **Field corn**, for example is 40 percent planted, a 23 percent increase over the previous week, and **green peas** are 96 percent complete, a 21 percent increase over the previous week. The planting of the **potato** crop is virtually complete.

Fruit blooms are now ahead of the five year average. **Strawberries** are 75 percent bloomed, running 5 percent ahead of the five year average. **Apples**, with 82 percent of the crop bloomed, are running one percentage point ahead of schedule, and **peaches** are matching the five year average with 96 percent of the crop in bloom.

Small grains conditions have declined slightly from the previous week. **Winter wheat** condition is rated 1 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. **Barley** condition is 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. **Rye** is rated at 5 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 6, 2001 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1996-2000
Small Grain Development:				
Barley, headed	71	35	86	79
Rye, headed	67	42	77	70
Winter Wheat, headed	14	--	37	28
Planting Progress:				
Cantaloupes	32	18	27	42
Cucumbers	24	15	18	23
Field Corn	40	17	29	41
Lima Beans	5	--	1	7
Snap Beans	8	--	11	25
Soybeans	8	--	4	4
Sweet Corn	48	25	30	39
Tomatoes	55	30	31	50
Watermelons	19	10	15	30
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	82	54	88	81
Peaches	96	88	92	96
Strawberries	75	45	86	70
Hay Harvested:				
Other hay, 1 st cutting	7	--	8	10
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	6	--	9	5

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 6, 2001 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	15	33	50	2
Topsoil (2000)	0	6	82	12
Subsoil Moisture	1	18	80	1
Subsoil (2000)	1	9	80	10

Carrie Louey
Mathematical Statistician

Ray Garibay
State Statistician

Precipitation and Departures From Normal, Through April 30, 2001

	April 2001		Since Jan. 1, 2001	
County	Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Accumulated Precipitation	Accumulated Departure
<i>(Inches)</i>				
Maryland				
Allegany	2.3	-0.9	5.2	-1.8
Anne Arundel	1.7	-1.6	6.9	-0.9
Baltimore	1.8	-1.8	6.5	-2.5
Calvert	1.8	-1.6	7.4	-1.3
Caroline	1.8	-1.5	7.5	-0.4
Carroll	1.7	-1.8	5.8	-2.4
Cecil	2.0	-1.6	7.6	-0.6
Charles	1.6	-1.6	6.7	-0.5
Dorchester	1.9	-1.4	7.3	-1.4
Frederick	2.0	-1.5	6.4	-1.5
Garrett	2.9	-1.1	7.3	-1.2
Harford	2.1	-1.7	7.3	-1.5
Howard	1.6	-1.8	6.4	-1.9
Kent	1.7	-1.6	7.3	-0.7
Montgomery	1.9	-1.2	6.8	-0.4
Prince George's	1.8	-1.5	7.5	0.1
Queen Anne's	1.5	-1.8	7.3	-0.5
St. Mary's	2.0	-1.3	7.2	-1.5
Somerset	2.3	-0.8	7.5	0.6
Talbot	1.8	-1.6	7.3	-0.8
Washington	2.3	-0.9	8.1	0.9
Wicomico	2.5	-0.6	7.3	-1.7
Worcester	2.3	-1.1	6.1	-1.0
Delaware				
New Castle	1.6	-1.8	7.6	0.4
Kent	1.6	-1.8	8.0	0.1
Sussex	1.8	-1.5	7.6	-1.1

Source: National Weather Service